

Other poor sister valleys which form the Scarcery of Craven - the upper valleys of the Aire, the Ribble, & the Wharfe. Wharfedale is by far the liveliest. It is the most isolated too, for the railway ends at Ilkley, above which you no longer come upon the inevitable mill chimneys of the West Riding, & the air is uncontaminated & delicious as in any highland street. The river comes with a heady course from the high peat-moss, brown, bright, stony; every village in the valley has its tales of disaster wrought by the Wharfe when it has pleased. The pleasant villages - Burnsall being the central village of the dale - are scattered but in three miles apart, each with laithes (cow-houses) in the village street; for the rearing of craven cattle is the great occupation of the craven folk. There is hardly a patch of corn to be seen in the upper valley, but the meadows are gigantic. The long harvest is the event of the year in the dales.

Upper Wharfedale is lovely throughout - Bolton Woods is - 'tis said, only more so! Here is, certainly, a certain boldness, because the Wharfe, swift & straight until now, has winds excessively. Every loop of the river winds round a green tree. Shaded meadows on either side of the meads, or the thickly wooded slopes of the high fells.

On a far smaller scale than Fountains, not - picturesquely in ruin as Rishworth, Bolton Abbey is distinguished amongst the northern houses only for beauty of situation. The shell of the church is nearly entire - (though so, indeed, for picturesqueness' effect. It shows two octagonal bays, the twelfth century work of the original builders, who appear to have finished the choir before their migration from Ambleside in 1150; & the 14th century work, a restoration apparently. The final effort was the 16th century Perpendicular, which is rather a delight to the eye. The nave is still used as the parish church, with the unadorned plain

149

buildings have been quite destroyed.  
The interest of the graveyard centre in the charming legend of the 'White Doe of Rylstone'. The story runs that after the dissolution, an evil doer was wont to appear every Sunday in the Abbey Churchyard amongst the worshippers; then the world remain during the time it would journey with the rest; betaking herself to Arncliffe, a glen near the source of the Wharfe. "This incident awakes the fancy," says Dr. Whistler; certainly it did, for the passage in the History of Lancashire inspired Wordsworth with his elegant poem of 'The White Doe of Rylstone'. He measures in with an above legend the fortunes of the Norton of Norton-crofts & of Rylstone; but follows the fine ballad of 'The Rising of the North,' rather than historical fact - which says, "The, masters, & their eight good sons

They doom'd to die:-

The story of the rebellion of 1589 is, briefly, as follows. The expectation of a marriage between Mary Queen of Scots & the Duke of Norfolk led to a general rising in the North, when the great-lords over Cumbria, Lancashire & the old religion, sent to eastern counties in support of Norfolk. Nearly all the great Yorkshires families were concerned in this Rising, smotely, the Nortons of Norton-crofts, old Richard Norton having taken an active part more than thirty years before in the 'Rising of Grace.' Norfolk shortly fell into the hands of the government, but the northern lords were not to be put down, & assembled their forces at Raby: hence, to Durham, where Richard Norton with fifty-followers marched into the Bamburgh, bearing the old banner of the former Rising - the cross & the five wounds - & restored the service of the Mass. They followed a progress to Darlington, to Ripon, to Knaresborough, to York castle. But shortly news of the advance of the Queen's army caused the insurgents to disperse with little resistance. Punishment - when as pitiful as that which overthrew the former marriage (Northumberland) was beheaded on the Pavement at York.

11P23674 25

From others of the leaders suffered death, & of the common people, from 600 to 700 were seized on a given night, & hanged in the various towns through which the insurgents had passed. But Norton & his eight good sons did not suffer. They lost their property & the family was ruined, but only one of the sons was put to death. The 'White Doe of Rylstone' is a precious 'illustration' of Yorkshire, for the exquisite word-pictures of Whorfedale scenes, because the story is an important event in Yorkshire history. Therefore Yorkshire may well be proud to have given occasions such delicious melody, as occurs in many of the lines.

Bolton Abbey was a collegiate church served by Anony. Canons, some fifteen or eighteen of whom lived there richly & royally, served by about 200 dependants, & an income <sup>with</sup> ~~over~~ £10,000 a year from money.

In the year 1120, William de Meschines & Cecilia his wife founded a priory for Canons Regular in the bare moors of Wharfedale, which continued there for about 33 years when it was translated to Bolton. How this exchange came about, we learn from the romantic legend of the 'Boy of Egremont' as told by Wordsworth. The Canons of Bolton were held by the lady Alixie de Promille, & William Fitz-Duncan her husband. They had one surviving son, the 'Boy of Egremont', who, in leaping to the cliff, was drawn back by the dog he held in leash, fell into the Wharfe, & was killed. The monks of Bolton consulted the bereaved mother for her comfort to erect a fair abbey in Bolton Woods, endowing it with the boy's lands. Forms the legend which Wordsworth has beautifully balladised for us, but against it stands the fact that this Boy of Egremont himself signed his deeds warranting the transfer of the lands of Bolton to the Canons of Embury. The 'Strid', the scene of Wordsworth's poem, is a romantic gorge about half a mile above the abbey. Higher still, in a brow in the heart of the woods, is

118 from 234 26

ruined towers. This is Barden Tower, then the ~~Stephens~~<sup>26</sup> lord of Shipton dwelt by choice, though it was a poor place compared with the great castles he owned elsewhere. His father was John, Lord Clifford, the 'Butcher' of the battle of Wakefield, who fell on the eve of Towton. On the ascendancy of the Yorkists, his family were in danger & danger of their lives, this eldest son & heir was only preserved by twenty-four years of Shepherd life spent first on the Yorkshire moors, then on those of Cumberland - such a disguise serving him better than the more secret hiding place. The romantic circumstances of this peasant life, the joyful restoration of the 'Shepherd Lord' after the battle of Bosworth are described by Wriothesley in his 'Lay of the Least of Brongham Castle'. Scott too has something to say of "the lusty Clifford", who led to men of Wharfedale to the battle of Flodden. Friendship with the monks of Bolton who shared his delight in certain studies is supposed to have been the cause of the Lord Raby's preference for Barden Tower as an abode. He spent much time in the restoration of his various castles which had been laid waste during the Wars of the Roses. Again, in the Civil War, the castles of the Clifford were laid waste, & this time (about 1650) they were restored, as many an inscription testifies by Anne, Countess of Pembroke, a most valiant & patriotic lady. The fortress of the Clifford in the pleasant market town of Shipton was amongst those now restored.

Down the river is Ilkley, a delightful health resort seated on the edge of Wharfedale's moor. The principal importance of Ilkley rests upon its hydro-pathic establish-  
ments, Bencoyding, Ilkley Wells Hotel, &c., over the bright little town is interesting to the antiquary for the reasons: Roman remains are found here, the fortifications of a Roman camp are to be traced. The early ~~Carved~~ <sup>Carved</sup> Saxons

1872 May 26

downs down to valley in Harewood with its ruined  
castles, dismantled, probably during the Civil War,  
are present Harewood houses, on the site of  
Gawthorpe Hall, which was occupied by at least  
two interesting families, the Gascoignes, when  
was that Judge Gascoigne also committed prison long  
afterwards Henry V., & at last, by the Wentworths?  
here the great Clifford both refuge occasionally, carried  
out with "Thorough" & other schemes for carrying on  
an impossible government, "God!" he writes, "with  
that quietness in myself could I live here!"  
The present Harewood house has some ~~valuable~~  
collections, & amongst the very interesting monuments  
in Harewood church are two of Sir William (and his)  
Gascoigne & his wife.

Boston Spa, a pleasant little watering place, with saline  
springs. & Thorpe Arch, where the river is precipitated  
steeply, with limestone cliffs, as is its upper  
course, as the last point is Thorpe Dale we have  
space to notice.

### Airedale

Airedale - the valley of the Calder, broad valleys  
both, have become the seats of the great manufacture  
of Yorkshire - that of woollens. In no part of England  
other manufacturing towns lie more thickly  
than in that valley, within a circuit of eleven  
miles from Bradford a million population of  
million as gathered in the thickly clustered  
towns & hamlets - so dense a population as is not  
to be met - with elsewhere in England, excepting  
in London about Manchester. Yet, though the  
beautiful valleys, rivers as black, ill repaid from  
the mills, through trees & grass on smoke-begrimed <sup>these</sup> banks

the lonely valleys are not altogether spoiled. Time allows  
any manufacturing town in the District, a railway  
journey of five minutes brings the work people to  
wood or glen or breezy moor, & perhaps, on reason  
why the Yorkshire mill 'hands' are, in the whole, cheery  
healthy folk, is that they all cross the Saturday  
train.

A favorite excursion is to Bell Beeston, the nearest  
station to ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> great dales of Yorkshire - to  
magnificent rock scenery of Malham Cne, &  
with no less variety from its base, of Foredale  
Scars, but we have already spoken of these, &  
cannot linger over the picturesque aspects of  
Airedale: we must consider it rather as the seat of  
the great industry of the West Riding.

Wool, as every one knows is a sort of hair, but with this  
difference that each fibre is wool curly, not with  
sharp edges curl such as we see in hair but with  
a fine curl or wave: also, each curly fibre has  
frayed edges, being increased with scales, commence  
that it is impossible to see them with the naked eye  
or to feel them, but yet, large enough to catch in on  
another. The natural curl of the wool fibres causes  
them to keep the twist they get in the spinning, but  
by their frayed edges, they hold fast to one another.  
This, what is called the nap, of which cloth is studded  
by so pummelling the cloth that each fibre becomes  
locked by its frayed edges to other fibres. & again,  
farn is strong and elastic & does not break at the joints  
because the committes fibres that form it, lock  
together by means of their scales & are not quite easily  
pulled apart. All wools don't possess these  
serviceable properties in the same degree, some are  
short, fine, curly, & thickly covered with scales, other sorts are  
long, straight & smooth, whence the surface feels fine when

111 p. 274

\* Broken by only a few of the scales.

There was a time when, according to Tuller, "all the nations of the world were kept warm by English wools"; but to-day, a visit to the Sallair mills or elsewhere reveals the fact that wools for the various Yorkshire manufacturers are brought from all quarters of the globe. Here is the immense warehouse, as to be seen loose, odd, clothing bales from India, packed in India-mattting; neat-little squares Gallots of Alpaca from Peru; workmanlike balls from Germany; clumsy packages of mohair from the mohair port of Syria; much fine wool from South Africa; endless balls of the beautiful Botany wool from Australia; wools from Australia, wools from Egypt.

Admitted into a factory, is one taken prior to the sorting, which is usually carried on in a top story of the mill because the sorter wants a strong light from the roof for his work. The worker stands at a board breast high, before a window, upon which a place is spread, & with wonderful quickness opens standards, he sorts the hairs into sometimes, a dozen different qualities.

The next process is simple enough. The wool is drawn into a large trough, filled with hot water & soap, & worked about with iron rakes until it is clean. Then, a "porcupine," a roller set with hooked teeth, draws it out of the water. It is dried by being spread over a wire grating beneath which large fans create a draught of hot air. Then, a plucker, set with crooked teeth, pulls the knots from the tangled apron of wool to which it is fed; & then hot or other preparing

1892-93-94. 26

machines make the broad sprig of wool into a  
loose rool no bigger than a child's wrist, called  
a sliver.

Next, the sliver goes into a combing machine, a  
wonderful machine, capable of a dozen distinct  
actions. To understand the difficulty of combing  
a huff of wool, we must remember that it is  
unlike the combing of one's own hair in this -  
that the hair is attached at one end, whereas, the  
wool is free at both; therefore, the combing machine  
must hold fast one end of the huff, & at the  
same time, comb out the loose end. Then, the  
combed end must be held, at the tangled end  
combed. When the huff is combed at both ends  
it must be laid so as to overtop the last  
huff. The comb must be cleaned with a brush.  
The dirt & refuse must be emptied into a  
receiving can; & a new huff of tangled wool  
must be seized ready for the combing. All  
these actions, however, are performed, quick  
as thought, by a single machine; & the result  
is, a lovely white soft roll of combed wool  
pouring out into the can waiting to receive it.  
The object of all this <sup>process</sup> combing & brushing - for we  
are brushing as well as combing attached to the  
machine - is to produce the same effect that -  
combing & brushing <sup>process</sup> the upon the hair. When it enters  
the combing machine, the wool is tangled, matted  
and quite clear; when it comes out, all the fibers  
of the wool lie side by side, straight & smooth &  
free from dust. Before the invention of this  
wonderful sheaftful machine wool combing was  
done by hand. the work of the wool combers was tedious,  
dirty, & done under degrading conditions. Nothing in

'Saxon crosses' are preserved in the churchyard);- Ilkley appears even to have been a British city; the Alceaster which Stoteling names amongst the cities of the Brigantes. Between Ilkley & Otley mere is a fair reach of the Wharfe valley, pleasant, well wooded, with the broad full river flowing through it, where are two or three interesting houses. Otley, a pleasant market town, has some fair old monuments in its interesting church. Otley Chevin overlooks the town. Rotherham Spa, a pleasant little watering place with saline springs. & Thorp Arch, where the river is picturesque, with limestone cliffs, are the last points in Wharfedale we have space to notice.

Appleton's  
expedition

the contrary can be cleaner, neater, & more rapid  
than the work of this machine.

But combing is not the only process by which the  
curling fibres of wool may be reduced to order.

Carding is considered to answer better than combing  
for the poorest kinds of wool, the fibres of which are  
very short & closely curled. The carding room is  
an immense room with, perhaps, a hundred  
great carding machines, standing in pairs, and  
5 feet, with a passage between them. A card  
is an iron roller, etc. all over with steel wires, shorter  
& closer together than the hairs of clothes brush.  
There is a large card, & a number of smaller card  
in a machine. The wool enters the mouth of the  
machine & is drawn through the pricks of  
one card after another, until after the last  
carding, every fiber lies straight even.

The soft cloud of wool that leaves the machine  
after the carding is pressed together & rolled &  
drawn by one machine after another, until it  
becomes a sort of soft bolt about the thickness of a  
candle with. It is then wound upon spindles  
is ready for the spinning frame. The sliver of  
wool goes through gully & dozen frames, however,  
before it is ready for spinning, & as each frame  
presses several slivers into one, & draws out  
that one until it is thinner than any of the  
slivers of which it is formed, the wool is doubled  
many times while passing through the frames.  
Indeed, it is considered, that about a quarter of a  
million doubling take place before the wool is spun,  
each doubling helps to stretch & separate the short  
fibres, & to scatter their ends, that the spinning  
will